

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): Sample dispenser, for the application of liquid samples with a sample volume of less than 1 μ l on to a sample absorbing area, with a sample dispenser body having at its end a recess bounded by a continuous edge, such that, when the recess is dipped into a sample reservoir, a droplet of liquid sample of predetermined size adheres to the recess and by placing the recess on the sample absorbing area is completely dispensed. ~~Sample dispenser according to claim 14,~~ wherein the recess has a shape selected from the group consisting of a hollow cone and a segmented hollow sphere.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the hollow cone shaped recess is made by drilling.

Claim 17 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to ~~claim 14~~ 14, wherein the ~~sample pick-up surface~~ recess is polished.

Claim 18 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the ~~sample pick-up surface~~ recess is polished.

Claim 19 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to ~~claims~~ claim 14 14, wherein the ~~sample pick-up surface~~ recess is represented by a free end face of the sample dispenser body in the form of an elongated body.

Claim 20 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the ~~sample pick-up surface~~ recess is represented by a free end face of the sample dispenser body in the form of an elongated body.

Claim 21 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 41 14, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section with a diameter of from about 1 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 22 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 41 14, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section having a diameter of from about 1.2 mm to about 1.7 mm.

Claim 23 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 20, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section with a diameter of from about 1 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 24 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 20, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section having a diameter of from about 1.2 mm to about 1.7 mm.

Claim 25 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 21, wherein the cylinder section is provided with two parallel flattened walls, ~~preferably~~ spaced from about 0.8 mm to about 1.2 mm apart.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 23, wherein the cylinder section is provided with two parallel flattened walls, ~~preferably~~ spaced from about 0.8 mm to about 1.2 mm apart.

Claim 27 (canceled)